



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN INDICTED FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Joplin, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally possessing a firearm.

Juan Alvarado-Alvarado, 26, a Mexican citizen residing in Joplin, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Today's indictment alleges that **Alvarado-Alvarado**, an alien illegally and unlawfully in the United States, was in possession of an AMT .380-caliber pistol on Dec. 28, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for illegal aliens to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Joplin, Mo., Police Department, the Jasper County Drug Task Force, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html